

SOUTHWEST REGION HURRICANE RITA UPDATE OF SEPTEMBER 28, 2005 – 1700 HOURS

PERSONNEL STATUS:

Number of employees unaccounted for due to this disaster: 0

Number of employees affected by this disaster: report pending

Number of employees on Administrative Leave: report pending

Number of employees assigned to the team: 69 FWS – 1 USFS

COOP: EMPLOYEES WORKING AT AN ALTERNATE SITE: 0

Until further notice, Central Command briefings at 0845 and the conference calls at 0900 will continue between the Regional Office, the Incident Command Team and those Field Stations that received direct impact from the Hurricane.

Employees must make requests for assistance through the Team who will then place the request to the Hurricane Rita Dispatch Desk for coordination. All personnel support, boats, vehicles, equipment and supplies are to be requested and assigned through the system.

A Critical Stress Debriefing unit has been ordered. Employees needing immediate assistance can call a counselor at 1-800-222-0364 24-hours a day. The Employees Assistance Program for this incident will be expanded to include assistance with insurance claims.

COSTS TO DATE: About \$15 million in damages

General Updates:

- Memorandum sent to hurricane impacted employees today regarding administrative process, benefits, payroll and how to obtain assistance – supervisors are to insure employees receive hard copies of all documents and forms
- Facilities and locations for temporary housing are being coordinated

Law Enforcement:

- LE situation currently good for short term
- Can accommodate Jefferson County request for LE support – request to go forward formally from the County to EOC
- Two more LE to arrive on Friday
- Deputizing of our LE continues by civilian and Federal authorities

Beaumont

- Remains without power, using generators
- Storage facility is destroyed – contents were evacuated

Texas Chenier Plain:

- Needs for temporary housing were expressed for employees
- Oil spills at Texas Point NWR reported to Texas Land Office and emergency response teams
- Powering up assessment being done for all facilities – power outages could continue for up to 30-days
- Returning administrative staff may be set up at ICP in Baytown to provide assistance with T/As, payroll, purchasing

T-3 Incident Action Plan (IAP) for today:

- Repair and secure shop at McFaddin
- Process work orders from Beaumont EOC
- Continue opening of emergency access routes

- Provide fuel support
- Pump up additional security where needed

HEAT INDEX: Extreme

SOUTHWEST REGION T-3 COMMAND TEAM DAILY REPORT 9/27/05

PHONE LINES FOR ICP: 281-573-4513 or 4514

FAX WITH COVER SHEET TO: 281-573-1823

- Record-setting heat and humidity are continuing to be exhausting. FWS personnel focused on remaining hydrated and safe
- No accidents to date
- Team's Community Liaison worked with Chambers County Judge to formalize request for State EOC recognition/request for FWS assistance (for FEMA compensation)
- Chambers County Judge attempting to coordinate with Jefferson County so they will request EOC recognition/requests for FWS assistance
- Team Medical Officer has identified two area hospitals that are available to assist in any emergencies and continues to monitor status of area medical facilities; officer maintains position in the field to reduce response time to workers

McFaddin NWR

Accomplishments:

- FWS maintenance staff set up on site
- Headquarters secured (storm shutters repaired, dormers and trim secured)
- Generator brought on line at fire shop
- Air conditioner brought on line, is drying flooded fire shop
- Generator installed for specimen freezer; restarted to refreeze putrefied specimens for disposal
- Four refuge employees' houses were cleaned up/secured (roofs covered with tarps)
- Road access to employees' homes was restored; 8-10 driveways cleared
- 1.1 miles emergency access restored at Port Arthur, TX
- Port Arthur closed off one square block to allow road clearing (repeatedly finding that tree clearing in tight urban areas is hampered by lack of space to dispose of debris; will contact National Guard to request truck transport of debris)
- Coordinated with Jefferson County EOC; declined FWS offer for road clearing and law enforcement assistance

Texas Point NWR

Accomplishments:

- Team members were assigned to work at other stations

Trinity River NWR:

Accomplishments:

- Completed clearing county road access leading to Butler tract (2 miles)
- Completed clearing CR 417 to Champion Lake (3 miles)
- Completed securing refuge facilities
- Completed cleaning 2 cares of fallen trees and removing plywood from FWS employee house

- Made contact with Liberty County, need commodity distribution assistance, but requested no additional sawyer or road clearing work
- Additional refuge clean up needed, but emergency access and securing of facilities is complete

Anahuac NWR:

Accomplishments:

- Team members were assigned to work at other stations

Law Enforcement Emergency Assistance:

- Four additional LE officers arrived to assist efforts, will be deputized in Chambers County 9-28-05
- LE met jointly with Chambers and Jefferson counties and State EOC to coordinate area law enforcement needs and services
- Continued to assist Chambers County Sheriff Office with patrols and calls
- Cleared a civilian horse-vehicle accident on I-10
- Continued to provide security to crews and equipment in the field and ICP
- Increased guarding of fuel distribution centers

Cooperators:

- Chambers County Judge Sylvia, Mid County Commissioner Judy Edmonds and West County Commissioner have greatly assisted in providing temporary Incident Command Post locations and are facilitating team housing.
- Chambers County Sheriff assisted with camp security and Anahuac volunteer fire department provided weapons cache and housing for FWS LE.
- Cleveland and Conroe, Texas police departments provided urban escort services for FWS relocation convoy.
- Liberty County Sheriff and Texas Department of Public Safety held traffic at intersection (SR 321 & SR 101 and Moss Hill, respectively).
- Proprietor of the Wooden Spoon (Edie Woods), the only functioning restaurant in Anahuac, Texas, have been providing meals to emergency relief workers, including FWS when we are operating in the area.

END OF REPORT

INFORMATION ACCESS:

CRITICAL INCIDENT STRESS COUNSELORS CAN BE REACHED 24-HOURS AT:

1-800- 222-0364

INTERNET:

Anyone seeking information on Hurricane Rita may do so via these Service links:

<http://www.fws.gov/southwest/> <http://www.fws.gov/>

R-2 HURRICANE RITA EMERGENCY INFORMATION/DISPATCH DESK:

Employees can reach the Southwest Region's Command Center's Hurricane Rita Emergency Information Desk by e-mail or text messaging at: hurricanerita@fws.gov

TELEPHONE:

The Emergency Information and resources Dispatch Desk is being staffed at the Regional Office from 0600 to 1800 daily. The Desk is serving as a centralized communications base for all affected staff and offices.

***HURRICANE RITA EMERGENCY INFORMATION DESK**
PHONE NUMBER: 505-248-6508 FAX: 505-248-6475

Employees may check for pre-recorded information on the Region's 24-Hour Emergency Phone Line at:

***24-Hour Employee Emergency Hotline: 505-248-6543**

NOTE: Any media inquiries may be coordinated by External Affairs: 505-248-6911

Daily updates will be completed by COB each day and press releases issued as necessary.

END OF REPORT